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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

BAKER, STEPHEN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2133

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/468,042

Applicant(s)

LUDWIG ET AL.

Examiner

Stephen M. Baker

Art Unit

2133

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5. 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objection

1. Claim 2 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim, or amend the claim to place the claim in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim in independent form.

Claim 2 apparently adds no further limit, as a "modular protocol structure" is considered to be inherent to the general concept of protocol layering, as also indicated by applicant's specification (p. 1, lines 19-20).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 4-6 and 8-17 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot itself depend from a multiple claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims have not been further treated on the merits.

2. Claims 22 and 23 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim must refer in the alternative form to other claims. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims have not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

5. Claims 1, 2, 21, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,936,965 to Doshi *et al.* ("Doshi").

Regarding claims 1 and 24: Doshi discloses a system and a "method for improving a processing time of received data in a packet-oriented application in a data transmission between a transmitter and a receiver each comprising a first and a second protocol layer via a communication network" wherein the first and second protocol layers respectively comprise an higher layer PDU preparation layer (HPPL) and a segmentation, reassembly and packing layer (SAR/PACK) (col. 2, lines 14-16). The transmission side of Doshi's system operates such that "data from the first protocol layer are released to the second protocol layer in the transmitter", "the data of the first protocol layer are divided into consecutive data packets of the second protocol layer",

and "the data packets of the second protocol layer are transmitted via the communication network" (col. 2, lines 40-55). In the receiving side of Doshi's system "data packets of the second protocol layer received in the receiver are sorted according to the transmitted sequence", "the data packets received are allocated to data packets of the first protocol layer on the second protocol layer", and "upon a data packet of the first protocol layer has been (sic) completely generated, said data packet is released to the first protocol layer" (col. 2, lines 59-64).

Regarding claim 2: a "modular protocol structure" is considered to be inherent to the protocol layering concept, in general.

Regarding claim 21: Doshi's IP and IPX are "packet oriented applications" that are "internet applications".

Regarding claim 25: Doshi's PDU reassembly of course requires "a buffer for temporarily storing the received data packets of the second protocol layer".

6. Claims 1-3, 7, 20, 21, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,236,647 to Amalfitano ("Amalfitano").

Regarding claims 1 and 24: Amalfitano discloses a "method for improving a processing time of received data in a packet-oriented application in a data transmission between a transmitter and a receiver each comprising a first and a second protocol layer via a communication network", wherein the first and second protocol layers respectively comprise an IP layer and an inventive layer that splits network layer frames into multiple subframes (col. 2, lines 15-20). At Amalfitano's transmitter, "data from the first protocol layer are released to the second protocol layer in the transmitter", "the data

Art Unit: 2133

of the first protocol layer are divided into consecutive data packets of the second protocol layer", and "the data packets of the second protocol layer are transmitted via the communication network". At Amalfitano's receiver, "data packets of the second protocol layer received in the receiver are sorted according to the transmitted sequence", "the data packets received are allocated to data packets of the first protocol layer on the second protocol layer", and "upon a data packet of the first protocol layer has been (sic) completely generated, said data packet is released to the first protocol layer".

Regarding claim 3: Amalfitano's subframes are "numbered consecutively and marked by a corresponding sequence number" (col. 2, lines 40-49).

Regarding claim 7: In accordance with the layering concept for assembling out of order subframes, Amalfitano's subframes are "sorted into a sequence corresponding to a sequence number".

Regarding claim 20: In Amalfitano's system, "the data transmission is performed via an IP network and a mobile communication network".

Regarding claim 21: Amalfitano's TCP and IP are "packet oriented applications" that are "internet applications".

Regarding claim 25: Amalfitano's reordering, necessitated by his selective reject protocol, of course requires "a buffer for temporarily storing the received data packets of the second protocol layer".

7. Claims 1-3, 7, 20, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,307,867 to Roobol *et al.* ("Roobol").

Art Unit: 2133

Regarding claims 1 and 24: Roobol discloses a "method for improving a processing time of received data in a packet-oriented application in a data transmission between a transmitter and a receiver each comprising a first and a second protocol layer via a communication network", wherein the first and second protocol layers respectively comprise an LLC layer and a RLC layer (col. 7, lines 26-39). At Roobol's transmitter, "data from the first protocol layer are released to the second protocol layer in the transmitter", "the data of the first protocol layer are divided into consecutive data packets of the second protocol layer", and "the data packets of the second protocol layer are transmitted via the communication network". At Roobol's receiver, "data packets of the second protocol layer received in the receiver are sorted according to the transmitted sequence", "the data packets received are allocated to data packets of the first protocol layer on the second protocol layer", and "upon a data packet of the first protocol layer has been (sic) completely generated, said data packet is released to the first protocol layer".

Regarding claim 3: Roobol's RLC packets are "numbered consecutively and marked by a corresponding sequence number" (col. 2, lines 40-49).

Regarding claim 7: In accordance with the layering concept for assembling out of order RLC packets, Roobol's RLC packets are "sorted into a sequence corresponding to a sequence number".

Regarding claim 20: In Roobol's system, "the data transmission is performed via an IP network and a mobile communication network" (col. 6, lines 47-50).

Art Unit: 2133

Regarding claim 25: Roobol's reordering, necessitated by his ARQ protocol, of course requires "a buffer for temporarily storing the received data packets of the second protocol layer".

8. Claims 1-3, 7, 19-21, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,256,300 to Ahmed *et al.* ("Ahmed").

Reference is hereby made to column 9.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 1-3, 7, 18, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over RFC1547 in view of RFC1663.

RFC1547 describes the combination of "first layer" packet-oriented application protocols (e.g. IP, Appletalk, DECNet, IPX and XNS, as mentioned in section 2.6) with a to-be-realized internet standard PPP "second layer" protocol that is to be responsible for segmentation and reassembly of such "first layer" packets. RFC1547 does not, however, disclose a PPP protocol with sequence numbers for sorting and reassembling PPP packets received out-of-order.

Art Unit: 2133

RFC1663 discloses a reliable PPP numbered-mode protocol with sequence numbers for sorting and reassembling PPP packets received out-of-order, to be used in circumstances where a reliable link is advisable (see Introduction, paragraph 3.).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to apply the reliable PPP protocol disclosed in RFC1663 as the PPP protocol for the above-PPP layers described in RFC1547. Such a combination would have been obvious because RFC1663 teaches the advisability of reliable PPP in relevant circumstances.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen M. Baker whose telephone number is (703) 746-7240. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (11:00 AM - 7:30 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert DeCady can be reached on (703) 305-9595. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Application/Control Number: 09/468,042

Page 9

Art Unit: 2133

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800.



Stephen M. Baker
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2133

smb
March 10, 2002